Miss Valerie Bernecker

St. Joseph School

6-8th Literature, Language Arts, Math

Teacher Institute: 17 February 2012

Technology-Infused Lesson in 7th Grade Language Arts

*Time*: 45 minutes

*Topic*: Peer editing novel book reviews  
*Learning objective:* Student is able to provide constructive feedback concerning a novel review

article to a peer using Edmodo and Microsoft Word or Publisher.

*Language Arts and Literacy Standards:*

* W5: With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
* W6: Use technology, including the internet, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others, including linking to and citing sources.

*Materials/Technology:*

* A computer or laptop with internet access for each student
* Accounts on Edmodo.com: before the lesson, teacher creates Edmodo “groups” for each pair of peer editors to join. I named mine “Peer Review Group A, Peer Review Group B, etc.” until I reached enough for every pair. I recorded the group codes on note cards to give to each pair, so that those two students alone could join the Edmodo group where they can exchange work just the two of them.
* An assignment previously completed and saved for each student. Mine was a book review for the novel Holes by Louis Sachar (attached)
* Peer review Worksheet (attached)

*Procedure*:

* Have students log on their computers and onto Edmodo.com
* Explain that we will be peer editing, and describe the value of constructive feedback that helps their partner improve their work. Explain the use of the worksheet along with computer editing
* Pass out one notecard group code to each pair (I have my students in three rows of pairs, so I used the partners my seating chart has provided for me, for simplicity.) Allow a few minutes for each pair to join their Edmodo group. Once they have joined, each student should upload their document to the group for their partner to retrieve.
* Students should download their partner’s paper off of Edmodo. Read through it once to get a feel for it, and then read through it again to seek areas of improvement. Use a stylus or the “Comment” feature on Microsoft Word to give feedback on their paper (under the “Review” tab, click “New Comment.” This allows one to highlight an area of concern and write a comment in the margin. Cool!). Along with this, fill out the worksheet.
* When students have completed reviewing their partners work and adding comments, save it again with a different name, like “Dan’s paper with Jenny’s comments.” Upload this document into the same partner group, where the original author can retrieve it and see revisions.
* With the remaining time, pairs can discuss their findings with each other, and why they marked what they did in the paper or on the worksheet. What were positive features about your partner’s work? What can use the most work?

*Assessment:*

* Formative: Done during class work time, and student edits are viewable through their Edmodo groups
* Their final papers to be graded should reflect improved work after peer feedback

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Holes Book Review Assignment Sheet

**Background**:

Holes is the winner of the 1999 Newbery Medal. Of all the children’s books published each year in the United States, only one book earns this prize. The Newbery Medal honors the finest contributions to American literature for children. A Newbery book displays a bronze medal on its cover, a visible symbol of its literary excellence that has a huge impact on book sales. It has been translated into other languages, even Braille.

*Does the novel deserve this high honor? You be the judge!*

**Your Task:**

Compose a book review of the Louis Sachar’s Holes. Write as if your local newspaper has asked you to write an article for the book review section—this means your audience may not be familiar with the novel, so you’ll need to do some brief explaining.

**Include**:

* 1-2 sentences: the author, title, genre, and intended audience (who did Sachar want to read it?)
* 3-4 sentences: short summary of the plot. Name the main characters and main problem or adventure—do not give away the ending!
* 5-6 sentences: Main focus—your opinion of the novel.

Some questions to consider: did you find the book engaging, moving, dull, etc? Does it have interesting characters? Did you enjoy reading it? Does it seem realistic? Does it succeed in appealing to its audience?

* 1 sentence: conclusion—would you recommend this book to others?
* Proofread writing with grammar, punctuation, and capitalization in mind, as always. ☺

**Due Date**: Friday, January 27, 2012